

NEW YORK HERALD.

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EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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Volume XXVII.....No. 101

AMUSEMENTS TO-MORROW EVENING.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC, Irving Place.—LUCIE BROTHERS.
HIBLO'S GARDEN, Broadway.—THE ENCHANTRESS.
WINTER GARDEN, Broadway.—CAMELIA.
WALLACK'S THEATRE, No. 814 Broadway.—LOVE AND MERRY.
LAURA KEENE'S THEATRE, Broadway.—THE MARY.
NEW BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery.—MAN OF DESTINY.
MADISON SQUARE GARDEN, Broadway.—THE NEW WAY TO PAY OLD DEBTS.
BARNUM'S AMERICAN MUSEUM, Broadway.—COMET.
THEATRE, Broadway.—THE NEW WAY TO PAY OLD DEBTS.
BARNUM'S AMERICAN MUSEUM, Broadway.—COMET.
THEATRE, Broadway.—THE NEW WAY TO PAY OLD DEBTS.
BARNUM'S AMERICAN MUSEUM, Broadway.—COMET.

New York, Sunday, April 13, 1862.

THE SITUATION.

The army of General McClellan in front of Yorktown is still prevented from making any decisive movements in consequence of the bad condition of the roads, but at the same time the advance keeps up a continual harassing fire upon the rebel batteries, the Burden sharpshooters doing such excellent service in this regard as to evoke a special order of thanks from General McClellan. It has been ascertained that the rebels have received large reinforcements during the past two days, and that they are rapidly strengthening their works.

From information received by scouts, it appears that the rebels are abandoning their position on the banks of the Rappahannock, and are falling back on Gordonsville and Richmond.

The particulars which we give to-day of the movements of the Merrimac on Friday are exceedingly interesting, showing the daring of the rebel flotilla in tempting our vessels into a fight which, for good reasons no doubt, was declined. The rebel vessel succeeded in taking three small craft—one loaded with hay, another with sutlers' stores, and the other empty—without any opposition. After making a show of their strength, and vainly endeavoring to induce our naval force to attack them, the rebel squadron retired, as we have previously stated. Our iron-clad boats—the Monitor, Naugatuck and Octorara—fired several shots at the enemy, but did no damage, being out of range. The Merrimac was still to be seen last evening lying quietly off Sewall's Point, under the protection of the rebel batteries.

Our troops have pushed as far south as Huntsville, Alabama, under General Mitchell. They took possession of that place without much resistance, and captured two hundred prisoners, fifteen locomotives and a large amount of rolling stock. Huntsville is an important point, as our map and description of the place to-day will show, being situated on the main trunk line of the Memphis and Charleston Railroad, which connects Richmond with Memphis and the other cities of the Southwest. Our possession of Huntsville cuts off all connection between the Southern Atlantic States and the West.

On the other side our army has taken possession of Pass Christian, in Mississippi, only fifty miles from New Orleans and thirty miles from Ship Island, from which latter point, no doubt, the advance was made. Thus the rebels in the extreme South are being rapidly enclosed in the embraces of the Northern ananconda.

The rebel accounts of the late battle at Pittsburg Landing, including the official of General Beauregard, represent that affair as a brilliant victory for their side; but it happens, unfortunately for the truth of these statements, that all their reports refer to the fight of Sunday, in which they undoubtedly had the advantage, being nearly two to one against General Grant's army on that day. Not a word, however, is said in the rebel accounts of the Monday's battle, in which the tables were turned, and our army, supported by its reinforcements, drove the enemy from the field. Beauregard's report announces the death of General Albert Sydney Johnston.

MIDDELANEOUS NEWS.

In the Senate of our State Legislature yesterday several bills were passed; but none of them were of any general importance. The Assembly's amendments to the bill to suppress the concert saloons were concurred in. The bill for the enrolment and reorganization of the State militia was considered in Committee of the Whole and ordered to a third reading. An unfavorable report was made from the committee on the bill for incorporating the Firemen's Savings Institution of this city. In the Assembly, the Concert Saloons bill was amended and passed; and, as the amendments were immediately after concurred in by the Senate, the bill now only needs the Executive signature to be a law. The Assembly also passed the bill to amend the Excise law and to provide for the payment of expenses incurred by individuals in organizing and equipping volunteers for the war. The bill increasing the license fee of peddlers and hawkers was ordered to a third reading. The Congressional Apportionment bill was taken from the table and referred to the Committee of the Whole. A motion to take up the New York and Brooklyn Passenger and Baggage Tax bill was lost.

dations of President Lincoln and Mayor Opdyke, this day will be signalized in all the churches of this city by services of thanksgiving for the numerous victories recently achieved over the rebels by the Union army. In some churches, we understand, the occasion will be further taken advantage of by making collections for the benefit of wounded soldiers, and the families of such as have fallen on the bloody field of battle. It is an example worthy of general imitation, and we feel sure that the benevolent announcement of the subject in all the churches to-day would meet with a liberal response from the various congregations.

The book-seller's trade sale was continued until late last night, and although a number of the buyers had returned home, so as to enjoy the Sunday with their families, there were still enough left to keep up the vigor of the bids. The invoice of Dick & Fitzgerald went off very finely, and Charles T. Beebe's list of autotype copies of fine engravings met with a deserved success, both as regards prices and numbers. The demands for the photographic albums were very spirited, the worse samples fetching good prices, and those of McKnight and Rutter, which were certainly the very best kind offered yesterday, sold at prices rarely higher than any other of the same class of goods. Their style of binding, doubtless, had somewhat to do with this success; for while other works of this kind generally fall to pieces after a few days' wear, the new "guard backs" of these albums prevent any chance of such a mishap. The stationery lists did not come off so early as expected.

In another column will be found the decision of Judge McCunn upon the constitutionality of the Sunday Liquor law, which will repay perusal. Messrs. Ireland and Matthews, who were arrested by Captain Petty for selling liquor on Sunday with closed doors, were discharged. The District Attorney virtually coinciding with the views expressed by the City Judge. His Honor had the decision on the motion to quash the indictment against James B. Taylor prepared; but the Recorder having adjourned the Court till Monday, he could not deliver it.

The argument in the case of Davis against Hackley, arising out of the street cleaning contract, was called on again, before Judge Barnard, yesterday, but postponed until Saturday next at ten o'clock. Mr. Edwin James made some remarks, on *passant*, respecting the American and English press.

The trials of several parties for being engaged in the slave trade were set down for different days, commencing two weeks from Tuesday week.

The divorce case of Casey vs. Casey was disposed of in the Supreme Court of Melbourne, Australia, on the 23d of December. This was the first divorce cause ever heard in the colony. The decision was in favor of the marriage, and against the application of the husband for its dissolution.

As far as the returns have been received the vote in Western Virginia stands as follows:

	For.	Against.
New constitution.....	3,737	64
Gradual emancipation.....	1,551	62

According to the City Inspector's report there were 455 deaths in the city during the past week—an increase of 49 as compared with the mortality of the week previous, and 21 more than occurred during the corresponding week last year. The recapitulation table gives 3 deaths of alcoholism, 2 of diseases of the bones, joints, &c.; 102 of the brain and nerves; 1 of the generative organs, 14 of the heart and blood vessels, 148 of the lungs, throat, &c.; 3 of old age, 58 of diseases of the skin and eruptive fevers, 4 premature births, 61 of diseases of the stomach, bowels and other digestive organs; 34 of uncertain seat and general fever, 9 of diseases of the urinary organs, 13 from violent causes, and 3 unknown. There were 315 natives of the United States, 7 of England, 91 of Ireland, 2 of Scotland, 33 of Germany, and the balance of various foreign countries.

The stock market was inactive yesterday, and at the first board stocks were a fraction lower. At the second board there was a moderate rally. Money was easier, being freely offered at six per cent. Exchange closed at 112½; gold 101½; gold 101½. The bullion exports of the day was \$70,177.

The cotton market was steady yesterday. Sales of 660 bales, chiefly to spinners, closing on the basis of 21½¢. A 25c. for middling uplands. The flour market was heavy, under the influence of the foreign news, and fell off 5c. per barrel, especially for common and medium grades of State and Western, while sales were moderate. Wheat was inactive and sales small, while prices were without change of moment. Corn was heavy and lower, with sales of Western mixed, in store and delivered, at 50c. a bushel. Potatoes were heavy and sales light, including new ones at 12½¢ a bushel, and new ones at 10½¢ a bushel. Bacon and lard were in good request, with sales of about 1,300 hogs, at fair prices. Coffee was quiet and prices unchanged. Freight was heavy and engagements light, at unchanged rates.

The "Old Flag" Again in Alabama—Huntsville Occupied.

General Mitchell's division, which our readers will remember was the advanced column of the army of General Buell in the occupation of Bowling Green, Kentucky, has crossed the State of Tennessee, and invaded the "sacred soil" of Alabama, and has thereon established itself for the present, in the once flourishing town of Huntsville.

This place, as indicated on the map, is on the Chattanooga and Memphis Railroad, and about eighty miles west of Chattanooga, one hundred and twenty miles east of Corinth, Mississippi, the latest stronghold of Beauregard, while some twenty-five miles to the southwest from Huntsville by rail is the railway junction at Decatur, on the Tennessee river, where it was supposed General A. Sidney Johnston had entrenched himself for a fight. The object of General Mitchell, therefore, in striking this railroad east of Decatur could not have been to cut off Johnston from a junction with Beauregard; for if this had been his purpose General Mitchell would have moved in between Corinth and Decatur. We presume that he has his eye upon the important railway junction at Chattanooga, and the still more important junction a little further east, at Cleveland, which commands the great railroad leading up through East Tennessee into Virginia, and thence to Richmond.

In this view of General Mitchell's occupation of Huntsville, the complete liberation of East Tennessee and the shutting of the back door to the Southwest against the rebel government and the rebel army at Richmond are very broadly suggested. As it is, even at Huntsville our army of occupation cuts off the railway connection between Memphis and Corinth in the West, and all the rebel States from Georgia to Virginia in the East, and leaves Beauregard on the one side and Gen. J. Johnston on the other exposed, each to shift for himself. The battle at Pittsburg Landing, however, may change the original design of General Mitchell's advance, and move him westward, in order to co-operate in the final operations against Beauregard, at Corinth.

In any event, the rebels will now soon be cleared away from the northern borders of Arkansas, Mississippi, Alabama and Georgia, by our advancing forces on the land and water in that section, while along the Atlantic seaboard and the Gulf our naval expeditions have nearly completed their preparations for a general moving back of the rebels into the interior of the cotton States. Their stampede from Virginia will begin, no longer with General Mc-

Clellan's capture of Yorktown. By that time, as we have intimated, their back door of escape to the Southwest, down through East Tennessee will be closed, and they will be compelled to move directly southward, through North and South Carolina; and even by this route they may meet with some very serious obstructions.

The interior portions of the cotton States, back from the malaria of the low, swampy sea-coast section, are elevated and remarkably salubrious. The original plans of General McClellan embraced this nice distinction between a summer campaign for Northern troops on the sickly Southern seaboard and the healthy Southern interior. Hence we find that all the late and present movements of our encircling armies, fleets and flotillas are directed, on both flanks, to push the rebels back into the interior of the cotton States before the sickly season of the Southern coast comes on. That this will be done can hardly now be doubted; but, with this great work accomplished, we think there will be no protracted rebel guerrilla war in the interior of the cotton States, but a general stampede of the rebel leaders for Mexico, and a general dissolution of the rebel armies.

Taxation of Newspapers—Influence of Cheap Journalism on Political Morals.

The death of the London *Morning Chronicle*, after nearly a century of existence, is a fact of great political significance. Taken in connection with the changes impending over our own newspaper press, its importance should not be lost sight of.

For thirty years the press of England had, under the influence of moderate and discriminating taxes imposed both upon circulation and advertisements, grown into a consequence and power which justly obtained for it the title of "The Fourth Estate." It represented as faithfully the opinions of the educated classes that no minister dare disregard its manifestations when exercised with anything like unanimity. It made or unmade cabinets, and, to a greater or lesser degree, dictated the policy of each successive administration. With the exception of a few weekly journals, circulating among the working classes, it was generally to be found the advocate of conservative or rationally progressive measures. Then came the abolition of what the radicals called "the taxes upon knowledge"—a term, like many other party shibboleths, intended merely to dupe the multitude. So far as it regarded the newspaper press it certainly had no just application; for, under a judicious system of taxation, the English press, had not only honestly fulfilled its mission, but prospered to a degree unexampled in the history of that particular department of literature.

The duty upon paper removed, its immediate effect was to multiply to an enormous extent the number of cheap journals, which, springing up like fungi, exercised a similarly unwholesome and poisonous influence. Requiring but comparatively little capital for their establishment, the English penny dailies soon acquired a circulation which affected the advertising business of their older rivals, and compelled them to reduce an expenditure that had been employed in securing the highest order of talent and personal character for their management. The consequences were soon apparent. Men of inferior capacity and principles got hold of the old established journals; the intelligent class of readers upon whom they had hitherto relied became dissatisfied with them; and to maintain their circulation they had to bid for popularity among the masses by rushing into extremes that they had hitherto carefully avoided. Hence the violent and disgraceful part taken by such journals as the *London Times*, *Post* and *Herald* on the American question, and the error into which we ourselves fell in assuming that these papers continued, as of old, to represent the views of the government or of the intelligent and educated portion of the English people. The fact was that they were either trying to curry favor with the working classes, whose interests were so seriously affected by the blockade, or had been bought up by Southern gold. The effect of this prostitution of journals, which had hitherto maintained an honorable and independent position, became at once evident. The two countries were nearly precipitated into a war with each other, and when the concessions of our government in the Trent affair led to an amicable adjustment of the difficulty, and afforded time for a calm consideration of all the facts, the conduct of these papers led to a violent reaction in public opinion, the effect of which has been to kill off the *Morning Chronicle*, which will soon be followed by the *Herald* and *Post*, and in all probability by the *Times*, too, unless it speedily changes its tactics. In trying to outvie the penny papers in radicalism and coarseness, these journals have disgusted the highly cultivated class of readers upon whom they have hitherto relied, and the latter are consequently now almost without any organ. When the conservative sentiment of the country is left thus unrepresented the consequences must be evident to every one. To violence of tone and an aggressive spirit on the part of the press will succeed party divisions and conflicts of all kinds and in their wake will inevitably follow revolution and anarchy.

Such has been also the experience of the continental nations wherever a cheap press has been allowed to multiply its issues uncontrolled by a government censorship. Who can doubt that, if taxation alone had been relied upon to check the radicalism incident to low priced journals, France would have exhibited more stability in her institutions? Any interference by authority with the free expression of opinion must always have a tendency to irritate and inflame the popular passions. If governments would so frame their measures that the press could only be conducted by men of capital as well as education, they would arrive at their objects without exposing themselves to the odium of enforcing restrictive laws against the right of free discussion.

In this country we are unapparently exemplifying, by our present misfortunes, the evils resulting from cheap newspapers. During the thirty years that England was becoming more united and powerful, under the influence of a moderately taxed and admirably conducted press, we have been steadily drifting into revolution. A system of government more perfect than any that the wisdom of man had ever before succeeded in devising has been suspended and nearly broken up by the demagogism engendered by a low priced and irresponsible press. It is for Congress to take care that this curse does not stick to us. In legislating upon the new tax bill attention should be directed to the political as well as to the fiscal considerations which attach to this question. The public morals, as

well as the public necessities, will be observed by making the taxation upon newspapers such as will guarantee their being conducted by persons who have some stake in the community.

THE MERRIMAC AND REBEL FLEET OUT AGAIN IN HAMPTON ROADS—THEIR AUDACITY AND IMPUDENCE.—By the news which we publish this morning from Fortress Monroe, it appears that the Merrimac, accompanied by the Yorktown and Jamestown—the latter armed with an iron prow, protruding six feet beyond the water line—came out from Craney Island on Friday morning, at seven o'clock, accompanied by four other gunboats—two of them probably the Teaser and Raleigh—and five tugs, making in all twelve vessels, and advanced into Hampton Roads, opposite Newport News. After notifying the French and English war vessels to move out of danger, the Commodore of the fleet sent the Jamestown to capture two brigs and a schooner anchored near the shore between Newport's News and Fortress Monroe, and in the service of the federal government. The three prizes were taken off under the rebel flag in less than half an hour, and conveyed to Craney Island—one of them with the Union flag at half-mast—no pleasant sight for American eyes. Meantime, the other Union sloops, schooners and brigs in the Roads retreated under the shelter of Fortress Monroe, and "in the course of an hour the forests of masts between the fortress and Sewall's Point disappeared, and the broad, open expanse of water bore on its surface only the rebel fleet and one English and two French men-of-war."

This was no surprise; for the Merrimac and her consorts had steam up for several days at Craney Island, and were expected out as soon as the weather became fine. On the first appearance of the Merrimac, too, the Minnesota fired an alarm gun. Yet the rebel fleet were permitted to carry off three vessels in the service of the government without an attempt at resistance. And not only so, but at four o'clock in the afternoon the Merrimac fired three shots in the direction of Hampton creek, as a challenge to our fleet to come out and fight. The Monitor, meantime, continued at her usual anchorage, and as for the Vanderbilt and the rest who were to run the Merrimac down, we have no account of their presence. Where were they? It is no wonder that "the bold impudence of the maneuvers of the rebel fleet, contrasted with the apparent apathy of our fleet, excited surprise and indignation" among the spectators. What has the Navy Department been doing ever since the late battle? Why was not the Merrimac cut out of Norfolk or sunk in its waters, just after she was disabled by the Monitor, instead of waiting till she was repaired and received two new powerful guns, carrying balls of three hundred and sixty pounds weight, with puncheon points, to penetrate even iron—and waiting, moreover, till one of her consorts had her boiler repaired and another had an iron prow affixed? What corresponding preparation has been made to meet the rebel fleet thus prepared? That nothing adequate has been done appears evident from the fact that the Confederate vessels came out to offer battle, and it was declined, except under the cannon of the *Kip Raps* and Fortress Monroe. This is not as it ought to be, and the Navy Department and Congress owe a heavy debt of responsibility to the country for palpable neglect, whose results cannot fail to be injurious to the prestige of the United States Navy among the maritime nations of the world. There is good reason to fear that the Merrimac will play an important part in the coming battle on the peninsula, extending from Yorktown, on the York river, to Warwick, on the James river, unless her destruction is previously accomplished.

PUBLIC INCREDULITY ABOUT WAR NEWS.—THE CASE OF IT.—For some time the public mind has exhibited great incredulity about the reports which appear in the newspapers from the battle field. This was the case about the victory won by our troops at Pittsburg, on the Tennessee, on Monday last. More than half of those who read the accounts did not believe them. This incredulity was not manifested till recently. It has arisen altogether out of the censorship. Had the newspaper proprietors been left to themselves they would have published as truthful accounts of battles as it was possible for them. It is always their interest to tell the truth. It is on this character for veracity that their success depends. But since the censorship of the press under the War Department, journalists are no longer responsible for the war news, and consequently the public have in a great measure lost confidence in it. There ought not to be any doubt that a victory was won by the Union arms on Monday; but there was so much mystery thrown around it by suppression of truth on one side, and exaggeration and invention on the other, that the public mind was confused and bewildered, and knew not what to believe.

One account said there was a disorderly rout of the rebels on Monday, and that they lost forty guns; another, that they lost no guns, but carried off the thirty-six they captured, and retired in good order when the reinforcement of Buell appeared to be too numerous to contend against. The variance in the numbers killed and wounded and prisoners on either side is very great. In the beginning the rebels were said to have lost 35,000, which is, to say the least, a great exaggeration. Then they were pursued to Corinth and it was rumored that Corinth was taken, all of which is now known to be untrue. The fact appears to be that in Sunday's battle the Union troops were severely defeated and only saved from utter destruction by the gunboats. On Monday, by the reinforcements they retrieved their fortunes and recovered the ground they had lost, punishing the enemy with heavy blows. But there ought to be an official report. The absence of official reports confirms the doubts of the skeptical.

Let the truth be published at once, whatever it is. It will be the best in the end. Leave the press free and untrammelled, and the truth will be sure to come out. Had the facts been allowed to be published in the morning papers on the day after the battle of Bull Run, instead of foolishly announcing a victory, the effect of the truth, which could not be kept back in the afternoon, would not have been half so disastrous as it was. When there is any attempt at concealment, or any mystery made about battles, the imagination will be sure to paint matters in the darkest colors.

MR. STANTON'S BULLETIN ABOUT THE ARMY SARGENTS.—We fear the Secretary of War's bulletin about the Assistant Army Sargents, Hewitt and Stipp, will make our military in the field feel very uncomfortable. If they are

"negligent and inhuman," why were they appointed? We suspect that many men, by political influence, have been appointed surgeons in the army who are neither qualified by the possession of humanity nor professional knowledge. The sooner they are swept away the better. They may be more fatal to our wounded troops than the cannon and musketry of the enemy have been. If the two surgeons thus reprimanded by a war bulletin are "enemies of their country and of the human race," they ought to be arrested, tried by court martial and hung, instead of being merely suspended from duty and ordered to report themselves."

NEWS FROM WASHINGTON.

WAR GAZETTE.

OFFICIAL.

PASSES TO EDITORS, CORRESPONDENTS AND REPORTERS.

WAR DEPARTMENT, April 12, 1862.

Colonel Anson Stager is hereby authorized to grant passes to the editors, correspondents and reporters of newspapers to enter the lines of the United States Army, upon receiving satisfactory proof that the person applying for such pass is loyal, and his written parole not to publish any information in regard to military operations that would give aid or comfort to the enemy; persons holding such passes to be subject to such rules and regulations as the General Commanding may prescribe.

EDWIN M. STANTON, Secretary of War.

IMPORTANT TO ARMY SUPPLIES.

The following has been received by the Military Governor of the District of Columbia:

WAR DEPARTMENT.

GENERAL.—It is the request of General McClellan that no permits be given for the present to ship sutlers' stores to places occupied by his army. You will please act accordingly and stop all shipments. Yours, truly,

EDWIN M. STANTON, Secretary of War.

Brigadier General Wainwright.

GENERAL NEWS.

WASHINGTON, April 12, 1862.

NOTICE TO VESSELS TRADING TO OLD POINT.

The following letter, addressed to Flag Officer Goldsborough, was issued from the Navy Department on the 6th instant:

Sir—It is not unlikely that some vessels may make their appearance at Old Point, for the purpose of trading with the army and navy, without authority to do so. No vessel should be allowed without the permission of the Treasury, War or Navy Departments; and, should you discover any that have not such permission, you will seize them, and send them into port for adjudication. I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

GIDEON WELLES, Secretary of the Navy.

THE NATIONAL TAX BILL.

The Tax bill has been found defective in very many particulars, and will require much amendment in the Senate, if it should not be superseded there by the submission of an entirely new bill. It is estimated that, under the provisions of the bill as it passed the House, only about fifty thousand dollars of the tax can be collected in the Territory of Colorado. It is stated that there is not in the Territory a single foot of real estate owned by individuals upon which the tax can be levied. Nor will anything be realized from the income tax in any of the Territories, most of which are in a similar condition to that of Colorado.

In maturing the Tax bill, the cost, convenience and feasibility of collecting the revenue appear to have almost entirely escaped attention. The tax on spirits and liquors is cited as an instance of this oversight. Instead of laying the whole tax upon crude liquors, as distilled, a light tax is laid upon them, and is increased upon the mixture of which they are the base. It is shown that it will be next to impossible to collect the taxes on these mixtures, and that this great source of revenue will be thus rendered unproductive to the government. The experience of the English government in collecting such taxes has taught them to lay the whole tax upon the original manufacture, and not attempt to follow the various devices of trade for the revenue. It is represented that not one gallon in ten thousand of raw whiskey is used in that state, but nearly all is subjected to some process to fit it for use. A tax, equal even to that imposed by Great Britain—two dollars and fifty cents per gallon—might without difficulty be collected from the distillers, but after it leaves their hands the collection of the subsequent taxes would require an innumerable army of excisemen.

EFFECT OF THE PASSAGE OF THE EMANCIPATION BILL.

The announcement to-day of the passage of the Emancipation bill by the District has created much excitement. It has produced irreparable domestic confusion, breaking up, in many instances, family relations that had subsisted undisturbed for years, and severing associations that were endeared by affections that can be appreciated only by those who have reared their own servants. While many slave owners willingly acquiesce in this measure, it meets with grave objections from the working classes, and in many instances from the negroes themselves, who regard this movement as only preliminary to their forcible removal from the country, and do not appreciate the boon of freedom which debars them from entering any State of the Union except Pennsylvania, New York and the New England States. To those among them who have family associations in Maryland, Virginia, or Kentucky, the state of servitude was preferable to the freedom which shuts them out from not only slave States but from most of the free States of the Union.

The bill as it has passed opens the way for innumerable frauds. There is no doubt, if the bill should become a law, hundreds of negroes, heretofore free, will be represented as slaves for the purpose of obtaining the compensation allowed. The impression has been greatly strengthened to-day that the failure to provide an opportunity for a trial by jury of the value of the negroes thus liberated will prove fatal to the bill. This opinion is now expressed by several who voted against Mr. Truitt's amendment, and it is stated that it is also entertained by the Attorney General.

MEETING OF THE LOYALISTS OF FAIRFAX COUNTY, VA.

The loyal residents of Fairfax county held another Union meeting to-day, chiefly with the view of perfecting a new organization styled the Union Club. The members are pledged to report to the authorities every man who may be considered dangerous to the Union cause, and to give the officers of the army all information possible concerning the enemy. Several gentlemen from the adjoining counties are interested in the organization, and are making arrangements for establishing similar societies elsewhere. The Union Home Guard, of Fairfax, is daily increasing in strength, and will shortly be in readiness for effective service. Mr. Brooks, Secretary of the Union Club, has been appointed to procure arms from the War Department for the use of the new corps.

A NOTICE ISSUED.

The city is being fast cleared of the bogus army officers who have infested the hotels and promenade of Washington for some time past. Counterfeit colonels, majors and line officers by scores have been arrested, confined in the central guardhouse, and released upon their own recognizances. The uniforms of these men is generally a cloak for rascality.

ARREST OF AN EXPRESS DRIVER.

Charles Griffin, an express driver, has been arrested and confined in the central guard-house, charged with forging a check for twenty-five dollars in the name of Captain Steele, affixed to a false account for services. The check was passed on Captain Dana. Griffin has been turned over to the civil authorities.

THE PROVOST MARCHAL'S PATROL.

The Provost Marshal has adopted a new method of patrolling the streets of the city. It consists in having the guard of cavalry and infantry accompany each other on their tour, and thus be able to render aid to one another in case any difficulty occurs in making arrests.

THE NAVY.

The following orders and appointments have been made at the Navy Department:

Commander James H. Strong, detached from the *Monitor*, and ordered to the command of United States steamer *Flag*.

Acting Master William T. Randall, ordered to report to the Navy Yard, Boston.

Robert G. Richards, of New York, appointed Master's Mate.

FAVORABLE REPORTS FROM ENGLAND.

Mr. Cyrus W. Field arrived here this morning, Green from London, and reports that the feeling in England and France in favor of this country is daily increasing. It is said that Mr. Field brought with him from Europe reports from influential capitalists in supply a very large amount of war material to the United States, to be of

service in New York, and payable entirely in bonds of our government.

SPECIAL MESSENGER TO MEXICO.

The President has appointed Mr. Plumb, formerly an attaché of the Mexican embassy, a special bearer of dispatches to that country. Mr. Plumb leaves at the earliest opportunity, taking with him the treaty projected between this government and that of Mexico. The treaty is elegantly engrossed and translated, is bound in blue velvet, on which are the American arms attached with silver cord and tassels, pending from the great seal of the United States, in a box of pure silver. The whole is contained in a Turkey morocco case, clasped with silver and lined with velvet.

THE NEW TREATY WITH MEXICO.

A clause in the new treaty with Mexico provides that criminals may be remanded by the State authorities of any State of either republic, without reference to the general government. This will save much circumlocution in the extradition of criminals.

ORDER RESPECTING PRISONERS OF WAR.

By orders recently issued, it is the duty of a commanding officer in the field, or of a department, to make arrangements for the safe keeping and reasonable comfort of his prisoners. He will give no order exchanging prisoners or releasing them, except under instructions from the War Department. But, in emergency, admitting of no delay, the General will act upon his own authority, and give any order relative to his prisoners, the public interest may require, promptly reporting his proceedings to the War Department through the Adjutant General. A general depot for prisoners will be designated by the Secretary of War, to be under the command of the Commissary General of prisoners, but leaving it discretionary with Generals commanding departments, or in the field, to send their prisoners thither.

THE SANITARY CONDITION OF THE ARMY.

From statistics prepared by the Sanitary Commission, it appears that the sickness of the army, classified by districts, was in the following relative proportions:—In August and September—Western States, ninety-eight; Eastern States, seventy-eight; Middle States, fifty-five; In October and November—Western States, one hundred and eight; Eastern States, seventy-four; Middle States, fifty-six. In December and January—Western States, one hundred and seven; Eastern States, eighty-three; Middle States, sixty. The statistics of the Commission show that the Western States invariably show the largest sick list proportionately, and the Middle States the smallest. The Commission is preparing other vital statistics which will be of great value.

A REBEL SHOT.

A man was shot by a sentry guarding the Orange and Alexandria Railroad, a short distance beyond Bristol station, last Wednesday night, while in the act of tearing up the rails. The rebel had withdrawn three spikes and was prying off the rail with an iron bar when the guard fired upon him, killing him instantly.

NEWS FROM THE RAPPAHANNOCK.

WASHINGTON, April 12, 1862.

Reliable scouts report that the rebels have almost entirely abandoned their position upon the south bank of the Rappahannock, and have fallen back to the immediate vicinity of Gordonsville and Richmond. It is believed that the greater portion of the rebel army of the Potomac has gone to the relief of Norfolk and Yorktown, at which places the enemy have doubtless concentrated their whole strength. The utter destruction of rails and cross ties beyond Cedar Run greatly retards our movements upon the line of the Gordonsville Railroad, and renders an immediate outlay of capital and labor necessary before any blow can be inflicted upon the enemy by our advance.

IMPORTANT FROM THE GULF.

THE CAPTURE OF PASS CHRISTIAN, MISSISSIPPI.

BALTIMORE, April 12, 1862.

A despatch dated Mobile, 5th, says the enemy (the Union forces) shelled Pass Christian yesterday, landed 2,400 men and twelve four-pound howitzers. Our forces was 300 men and two howitzers. We (the rebels) made a narrow escape.

SKETCH OF PASS CHRISTIAN.

Pass Christian (pronounced Kris-tian, with the second syllable) is a post village of Harrison county, Mississippi. It is located on a pass of its own name, upon the entrance to St. Louis Bay. It is situated about one hundred and sixty-five miles to the south-southwest of Jackson. It is fifty miles from New Orleans, thirteen miles from Mississippi City, and twenty-five miles from Biloxi. It is about thirty miles from the eastern portion of Ship Island, and about eighty miles from the mouth of Pass-a-loutre of the Mississippi river.

Harrison county is situated in the most southern part of the State, and borders on the Gulf of Mexico. It has an area of about eleven hundred and fifty square miles, and is drained by the Biloxi and Wolf rivers. The soil is sandy, and, for the most part, is covered with pine-wood. The capital of the county is Mississippi City. The last census of the population gave an aggregate of this county of nearly five thousand persons, of whom fifteen hundred were slaves. Pass Christian—that is, the waters of that